



Tailgate Safety Talk

Information You Can Use to Prevent Accidents & Injuries

The trouble light is designed to be used as temporary portable lighting for situations such as repairing equipment or dealing with emergencies. Also known by extension light, hand lamp or inspection light, the trouble light certainly can cause trouble. Shock, burns, fires, explosions, falls among other incidents have been associated with electric trouble lights.

Here are some reminders about trouble light safety:

- In a flammable atmosphere, an ordinary trouble light can set off an explosion. Use only the recommended spark-proof lighting equipment in an atmosphere of flammable liquid vapors, gas or dust.
- Use a trouble light instead of a match or lighter, which can cause a fire in combustible materials.
- Examine the light and cord for damage and wear before use. Look for problems such as loose connections, defective plugs, worn sockets, broken switches, twisted cords and damaged bulb guards.
- Plug the cord into the proper receptacle. Never remove the third prong from the extension cord. It is here to protect you from electric shock.
- Don't attempt to splice an extension cord to make it longer. In fact, never make any makeshift electrical repairs.
- Protect the extension cord from damage by keeping it out of traffic areas. Protect it from contact with sharp surfaces such as nails or blades which can cut the insulation. Don't allow the cord to become a tripping hazard.
- Keep the cord out of substances such as oil, acid or solvents which can damage the insulation.
- Keep the cord and light away from moisture.
- Unplug the light by pulling on the plug, not the cord.
- Use only a bulb of the wattage recommended by the manufacturer.
- Never leave a hand lamp laying in a clutter of tools or equipment. Instead, return it to its proper storage place.
- Don't hang cords on nails or other metal objects. Instead use a hanger made of wood, plastic or an insulator. Take care not to drive over the cords or slam them in doors.
- Use a ground fault circuit interrupter (or assured grounding) with trouble lights and all portable electric tools.
- Trouble lights should not replace permanent lighting. Talk to your supervisor if your workstation needs new lighting and wiring.
- Battery powered trouble lights are available and are more appropriate for many circumstances.

Talk to your supervisor about choosing the right trouble light for your work circumstances. Use it with care to prevent damage and injuries. Remember to keep the most basic trouble light - an ordinary flashlight - in your home and your vehicle.

Users of this tailgate talk are advised to determine the suitability of the information as it applies to local situations and work practices and its conformance with applicable laws and regulations.